

CONFIDENTIAL

NSC BRIEFING

13 July 1958

CAMBODIA

- I. Cambodian Crown Prince Sihanouk seems about to follow through on threat to develop closer ties with Communist China.
- A. Sihanouk, who is also Prime Minister, claims a "new ally" is needed to offset what he considers Western support for "imperialistic designs" of South Vietnam and, secondarily, Thailand.
- B. Sihanouk now considering military assistance treaty with Peiping.
- C. Earlier, Sihanouk allegedly had approved establishment of a Chinese Communist consulate in Phnom Penh, where now Peiping has only an economic mission.
- II. Eleventh-hour reconciliation with President Diem of South Vietnam would relieve Sihanouk of need to consummate deals with Peiping, but there are serious obstacles to this.
- A. Sihanouk canceled earlier meeting with Diem on ground of insulting articles in Saigon press.
- B. Sihanouk's face now so committed that Diem would have to make first move toward rapprochement--an unlikely step since Diem seems utterly contemptuous of Sihanouk and considers him well along leftward path.

Document No. <u>18</u>
No Change in Class. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> See <input type="checkbox"/> Filed
Class. (Group) in: <u>TS S (C)</u>
Ext. Sec. Ref. No. <u>1990</u>
Auth: <u>111 70-0</u>
Date: <u>2/14/80</u>

CONFIDENTIAL